

CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 17 as follows.

Please **ADD** claim 22 as follows.

A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims is provided below.

1. (currently amended) A disc brake for a vehicle comprising:

a caliper bracket fixed to a vehicle body;

a pair of caliper support arms striding an outer periphery of a disc rotor in a disc axial direction;

pad guide grooves formed in the caliper support arms so as to be opposed to each other;

friction pads disposed on both sides of the disc rotor, the friction pads having ears projected from both side portions of a back plate thereof; and

pad retainers disposed on the pad guide grooves, the ears of the friction pads being movably supported by the pad guide grooves and between receiving portions of the pad retainers, wherein the pad retainers each has:

pad returning portions for urging the friction pads away from the disc rotor, the pad returning portions extending between the receiving portions and contact with the ear of the friction pads so as to urge the friction pads away from the disc rotor, and

pad falling-off preventive portions for preventing the friction pads from falling off the caliper support arms in the disc axial direction.

2. (previously presented) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the pad returning portions includes: an elastic loop portion formed by a long and narrow piece outwardly

extended away from the disc rotor in the disc axial direction and bent back to the disc rotor in the disc axial direction; and a pad springing-back portion formed by the long and narrow piece further extended toward the disc rotor and outwardly inclined in a disc radial direction.

3. (previously presented) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the long and narrow piece of the elastic loop portion is bent back so as to form a circular arc, and the long and narrow piece of the pad springing-back portion is warped as a shape of a curvature.

4. (previously presented) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the pad guide grooves are formed by bracket-shaped grooves each having a disc radial direction outer side face, a disc radial direction inner side face, and an opposed face connecting the two side faces.

5. (previously presented) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the pad retainer includes a receiving piece contacted with a disc radial direction inner side face and a long and narrow piece extended from the receiving piece away from the disc rotor, a proximal portion of the long and narrow piece is bent back toward the disc rotor in a circular arc to form an elastic loop portion, and a tip portion of the long and narrow piece that extends from the elastic loop portion toward the disc rotor is outwardly inclined in the disc radial direction to form a pad springing-back portion, and

wherein the pad springing-back portion is contacted with a disc radial direction inner side face of the ear to urge the ear away from the disc rotor and outward in the disc radial direction.

6. (original) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the pad springing-back portion is warped as a shape of a curvature as it extends from the proximal portion.

7. (original) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the elastic loop portion is located on an opposite side of the ear to the disc rotor.

8. (original) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the elastic loop portion is located on an opposite side of the ear to the disc rotor.

9. (currently amended) A disc brake for a vehicle ~~as set forth in Claim 1, comprising:~~
a caliper bracket fixed to a vehicle body;
a pair of caliper support arms striding an outer periphery of a disc rotor in a disc axial
direction;
pad guide grooves formed in the caliper support arms so as to be opposed to each other;
friction pads disposed on both sides of the disc rotor, the friction pads having ears projected
from both side portions of a back plate thereof; and
pad retainers disposed on the pad guide grooves, the ears of the friction pads being
movably supported by the pad guide grooves and between receiving portions of the pad retainers,
wherein the pad retainers each has:
pad returning portions for urging the friction pads away from the disc rotor, the pad
returning portions extending between the receiving portions and contact with the ear of the
friction pads so as to urge the friction pads away from the disc rotor, and

pad falling-off preventive portions for preventing the friction pads from falling off the caliper support arms, and
wherein each said pad falling-off preventive portion is bent back so as to form a circular arc.

10. (currently amended) A disc brake for a vehicle ~~as set forth in Claim 2, comprising:~~
a caliper bracket fixed to a vehicle body;
a pair of caliper support arms striding an outer periphery of a disc rotor in a disc axial direction;
pad guide grooves formed in the caliper support arms so as to be opposed to each other;
friction pads disposed on both sides of the disc rotor, the friction pads having ears projected from both side portions of a back plate thereof; and
pad retainers disposed on the pad guide grooves, the ears of the friction pads being movably supported by the pad guide grooves and between receiving portions of the pad retainers,
wherein the pad retainers each has:
pad returning portions for urging the friction pads away from the disc rotor, the pad returning portions extending between the receiving portions and contact with the ear of the friction pads so as to urge the friction pads away from the disc rotor, and
pad falling-off preventive portions for preventing the friction pads from falling off the caliper support arms,
wherein each pad returning portion includes: an elastic loop portion formed by a long and narrow piece outwardly extended away from the disc rotor in the disc axial direction and bent back to the disc rotor in the disc axial direction; and a pad springing-back portion formed by the long

and narrow piece further extended toward the disc rotor and outwardly inclined in a disc radial direction, and

wherein the elastic loop portion is an other pad falling-off preventive portion.

11. (previously presented) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the receiving portions include an inner receiving portion and an outer receiving portion and the ears of the friction pads are movably supported by the pad guide grooves via the inner receiving portion and the outer receiving portion.

12. (currently amended) A disc brake for a vehicle comprising:

a caliper bracket fixed to a vehicle body;

a pair of caliper support arms striding an outer periphery of a disc rotor in a disc axial direction;

pad guide grooves formed in the caliper support arms so as to be opposed to each other;

friction pads disposed on both sides of the disc rotor, the friction pads having ears projected from both side portions of a back plate thereof, the ears of the friction pads being movably supported by the pad guide grooves; and

pad retainers disposed on the pad guide grooves, the pad retainers including:

an extending portion extending in a disc radial direction behind the friction pad, and

a pad returning portion extending at least partially between receiving portions of the pad retainers and comprising an elongated strip which extends towards the disc rotor and is longer than a distance by which the ears of the friction pad is moved from a time when a lining of the friction pad is new to being fully worn.

13. (currently amended) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 12, wherein the pad returning portion includes a spring back portion comprising a piece extending outward in the disc axial direction and the extending portion includes a bent back portion to form a circular arc forming an elastic loop portion.

14. (previously presented) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 12, wherein the pad retainers include retainer portions having an inner receiving piece and an outer receiving piece that are opposed to each other, with the ear of the friction pad interposed in between.

15. (currently amended) A disc brake for a vehicle ~~as set forth in Claim 14, comprising:~~
a caliper bracket fixed to a vehicle body;
a pair of caliper support arms striding an outer periphery of a disc rotor in a disc axial
direction;
pad guide grooves formed in the caliper support arms so as to be opposed to each other;
friction pads disposed on both sides of the disc rotor, the friction pads having ears projected
from both side portions of a back plate thereof, the ears of the friction pads being movably
supported by the pad guide grooves; and
pad retainers disposed on the pad guide grooves, the pad retainers including a pad returning
portion extending at least partially between receiving portions of the pad retainers and comprising
an elongated strip which extends towards the disc rotor and is longer than a distance by which the
ears of the friction pad is moved from a time when a lining of the friction pad is new to being fully
worn.

wherein the pad retainers include retainer portions having an inner receiving piece and an outer receiving piece that are opposed to each other, with the ear of the friction pad interposed in between, and

wherein the inner receiving piece comprises a pad falling-off preventive portion that is bent back so as to form a circular arc.

16. (previously presented) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 14, wherein the pad retainers include an insertion guide which is bent outward from each outer receiving piece on a side opposite to the disc rotor.

17. (currently amended) A disc brake for a vehicle ~~as set forth in Claim 12, wherein:~~
comprising:

a caliper bracket fixed to a vehicle body;

a pair of caliper support arms striding an outer periphery of a disc rotor in a disc axial direction;

pad guide grooves formed in the caliper support arms so as to be opposed to each other;
friction pads disposed on both sides of the disc rotor, the friction pads having ears projected from both side portions of a back plate thereof, the ears of the friction pads being movably supported by the pad guide grooves; and

pad retainers disposed on the pad guide grooves, the pad retainers including a pad returning portion extending at least partially between receiving portions of the pad retainers and comprising an elongated strip which extends towards the disc rotor and is longer than a distance by which the

ears of the friction pad is moved from a time when a lining of the friction pad is new to being fully worn,

wherein the pad returning portion comprises a piece extending outward in the disc axial direction and is bent back to form a circular arc to form an elastic loop portion,

the pad retainers include retainer portions having an inner receiving piece and an outer receiving piece that are opposed to each other in a direction that is inclined from a disc radial direction,

the inner receiving piece comprises a pad falling-off preventive portion that is bent back so as to form a circular arc, and

the elastic loop portion and the pad falling-off preventive portion are located on opposite sides of the ears.

18. (previously presented) A disc brake for a vehicle comprising:

a caliper bracket;

a pair of caliper support arms coupled to the caliper bracket;

pad guide grooves formed in the caliper support arms so as to be opposed to each other;

and

pad retainers disposed on the pad guide grooves, the pad retainers including:

a pad returning portion comprising an elongated strip adapted to extend towards a disc rotor and an elastic loop portion on an opposing side thereof;

a retainer portion having an inner receiving piece and an outer receiving piece that are opposed to each other in a direction that is inclined from a disc radial direction,

a pad falling-off preventive portion that is bent back so as to form a circular arc, the pad falling-off preventive portion extending outward from the inner receiving piece, and

a side piece that connects the inner receiving piece and the outer receiving piece.

19. (previously presented) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 18, wherein the elongated strip is longer than a distance by which ears of a friction pad are moved from a time when a lining of the friction pad is new to being fully worn.

20. (previously presented) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 18, wherein the elongated strip is a spring back portion which is warped and extends outward between the inner receiving piece and the outer receiving piece.

21. (previously presented) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the pad falling-off preventive portions extend from the inner receiving portion outward in a disc axial direction.

22. (new) A disc brake for a vehicle as set forth in Claim 12, wherein the extending portion is a pad falling-off preventive portion structured and arranged to prevent the friction pads from falling off the caliper support arms in the disc axial direction.